

**Government Administration and Elections Committee**

**March 18, 2016**

**Senate Bill 439: An Act Concerning the State Contracting Standards Board and Requirements for Privatization Contracts**

Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Ranking Members, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

I offer the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 439: An Act Concerning the State Contracting Standards Board and Requirements for Privatization Contracts.

My name is Mark Kirschner, I am an Information Technology Analyst at DAS BEST, with over 30 years of service. In addition, I am a concerned resident and taxpayer of the State of Connecticut. My responsibilities, as an IT Analyst, include supporting several mission critical IT applications across several State Agencies. Many of these applications are developed and supported by private contractors, resulting in inefficiencies and greater costs. Much of this work can be and should be done in house to achieve savings and efficiency. I currently work in the Data Services division, where there are seven State employees and three contractors. These contractors are performing similar duties, although they don't have the higher level of experience and skills as the State employees in the unit. Most of the work of these contractors can be done by current staff, more efficiently and at a much lower cost.

During my IT career with the State of Connecticut, several large IT privatization contracts have been problematic, with inefficiencies, cost overruns and outright failures. In some cases, the ship is righted, as the project fixed and completed by State IT employees. However, in many cases these projects are either shelved, after a great amount of expenditures or are ongoing, with very few, if any, successfully completed deliverables.

There have been several instances where the State of Connecticut has terminated large IT privatized contracts that were failing. This would occur after large expenditures of funds. Furthermore, in most cases, State resources are an added cost due to the ineptitude of the contractor. Sometimes the State takes actions against a contractor. But what is the end result and what is the cost? Furthermore, are lessons learned?

The State of Connecticut spends hundreds of millions of dollars for IT private contractor services. Much of this work can be done in-house, achieving substantial savings. The state of Connecticut needs to provide oversight and due diligence prior to considering to contracting out Information

Technology work. The right choice is about efficiency and cost savings. SB439 will help achieve that goal.

In ending, I ask you to support Senate Bill 439. This legislation will impose meaningful reforms on state contracting processes that would improve transparency and foster accountability.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Kirschner  
Farmington, CT